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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 35 | Min 23 | Humidity 35% Partly Sunny Sensex 77,550 | Nifty 24,050 | Gold 1,53,184 | Silver 2,44,700 | Dollar 92.91 | Euro 109.03 | GBP 125.18

FILL THE VACANCY

With 152 administrative and scientific posts unfilled due to lack of eligible candidates, is pollution control board effective enough?

PAGE 5

GOOD POLICE WORK

An indepth look at how city's police force keeps up-to-date with changing face of crime and what keeps them motivated

PAGE 6

Story of para athletes, who are masters of many sports, but excel in fencing, in which they have brought country several laurels — all with only intense passion and not much funding or facilities' support from government

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHAMPIONS

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On most evenings at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, as the city winds down, a different energy erupts on the training grounds with mesmerising sights of players pushing themselves beyond physical limits, not just for medals but for something greater.

Among them are Namma Bengaluru's eminent wheelchair fencers, who hold the memory of the past but step into the new like a challenge well fought. Fencers Devendra, Thimmanna, Raghavendra and Yamanappa have represented the country on many occasions in athletics and para fencing. Their journey is not defined by their disability, but it is about the unwavering decision to keep moving forward with every ounce in the self.

Devendra's journey

A former building labourer's life changed overnight when he took a fall from 20 feet, and a metal slab struck him and left his spinal

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KAUSHIK JN

From left (standing): Harish, Devaraju HS, Thimanna; (sitting): Yamanappa and Devendra

"The Karnataka government should focus more on deploying funds so that many struggling athletes coming from villages can get their one chance to prove themselves, and the numbers keep increasing

—Yamanappa BC

No brakes on hit-and-run

2,284 hit-and-run accidents in 2024 is a dip as compared to 2022, but challenges in cracking such cases and claiming compensation remain

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Karnataka reports a significant number of hit-and-run accidents, with 2,284 cases recorded in 2024 (provisional), highlighting a persistent road safety concern, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha recently.

The data shared on April 2 about such accidents across India over the past five years shows that in Karnataka, the trend has fluctuated. The state recorded 2,193 cases in 2020, which dipped slightly to 1,958 in 2021. However, 2022 saw a sharp spike to 3,017 cases, the highest in the five-year period. The numbers then declined to 2,737 in 2023 and further to 2,284 in 2024. Despite the recent drop, the data shows that on average, multiple hit-and-run incidents continue to occur daily across the state.

At the national level, hit-and-run cases have steadily increased over the years. India reported 53,623 such cases in 2020, rising to 57,415 in 2021 and 67,387 in 2022. The number peaked at 68,783 in 2023, before marginally declining to 68,584 in 2024 (provisional). The consistently high figures point to a persistent and widespread issue on Indian roads.

Compared to other states, Karnataka remains among those with a considerable

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THINGS TO DO

01 Global party lands

Global music festival phenomenon Elrow makes its Bengaluru debut, bringing its iconic Neo Kaos Garden theme, an immersive mix of music, theatre and high-energy chaos. Featuring international DJs, Spanish performers and signature confetti-filled spectacles, the event promises a full-scale sensory experience. Tickets available on District by Zomato. **Where: To be announced; When: May 23, 3 pm onwards**

02 Cupcake workshop

Umi Early Years, in collaboration with Magnolia Bakery, will host a parent-toddler cupcake decorating workshop. The guided session includes icing and decorating activities led by expert chefs. **Where: Umi Early Years, Sanjayanagara; When: April 18, 11 am to 12.30 pm**

03 Improv nights

Simp Simpli Improv Jams returns, inviting all to explore spontaneous storytelling and creativity. A free, inclusive improv space by jijji collective, open to beginners and enthusiasts alike, with pay-as-you-like entry. **Where: Shoonya, Lalbagh; When: April 24, 6 pm**

04 Beauty fest

E BeautyXperience 3.0 returns, offering a nine-day celebration of beauty, fashion and wellness. With celebrity masterclasses, live sessions and immersive brand experiences, the festival promises a vibrant, multi-sensory lifestyle showcase. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: April 12**

05 Art spread returns

Art Bengaluru Collective will host its 10th multi-art show. Featuring over 35 artists and 350+ artworks, the exhibition will also include art stalls, live performances and interactive sessions. **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road; When: April 12, 10 am to 7 pm**

New radiation model reduces trips, slashes pollution in cities

Cancer care breakthrough links shorter radiotherapy schedules with sustainability goals, reducing urban pressure while maintaining clinical effectiveness across multiple tumour types

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In a breakthrough that connects cancer care with climate action, a new study highlights how reducing hospital visits through advanced radiation therapy can significantly cut carbon emissions in a traffic-heavy city like Bengaluru.

The Carbon-SUSTAIN study, conducted between January 2023 and October 2025, focuses on hypofractionation, a model that delivers higher doses of radiation in fewer sessions. The study included 786 patients across breast, prostate, early glottic laryngeal cancers and bone metastases, delivering 12,185 treatment fractions compared to 20,859 under conventional methods.

At the core of the model is a shift in how radiation is administered. "Hypofractionation is a radiation therapy approach where higher doses of radiation are delivered per session (fraction) over fewer total sessions, while maintaining equivalent or superior biological effectiveness compared to conventional schedules," said Dr Lohith G Reddy, Senior Consultant Radiation Oncologist and Clinical Lead – Functional Radiosurgery.

The model compresses treatment timelines without compromising effectiveness. "In essence, the model compresses the same effective treatment into fewer visits without compromising outcomes," he added.

Traditionally, patients require 30–35 hospital visits for radiation therapy. Hypofractionation reduces this drastically. "Because each session delivers a more effective tumouricidal dose, fewer sessions are required to reach the same endpoint," Dr Reddy explained. The impact on patient movement and emissions is substantial. "Every fraction is equal to one hospital visit. Reducing fractions directly equals reducing visits," he said.

The study recorded 8,674 visits avoided, translating to a 41.6% reduction in hospital visits. This also resulted in a total carbon emission reduction of 96.8 to 125.3 tonnes. Of this, approximately 37.1 tonnes were electricity-related savings, while 59.7 to 73.8 tonnes came from reduced travel.

"This leads to a massive reduction in travel frequency, lower exposure to traffic congestion, reduced waiting times, and a lower logistical burden," Dr Reddy said. "This translates to lower CO emissions, reduced patient fatigue, and better treatment compliance. Hypofractionation represents a direct decoupling of cancer care from travel burden, with no compromise in overall outcomes."

The study also highlights which patients benefit most. "The biggest beneficiaries are cancers where hypofractionation is strongly evidence-based," he noted, citing breast cancer, prostate cancer, early glottic laryngeal cancer and bone metastases.

However, the model is not without challenges. "Not all tumours are suitable. It requires careful biological and anatomical selection. Hypofractionation needs IGRT/CBCT, motion management, and SBRT capability. Not all centres globally have this infrastructure."

He also emphasised the need for expertise: "It requires precise contouring, tight margins with dynamic imaging strategies, and physics quality assurance."

Research shows fewer sessions lower transport demand, decrease pollution output, minimise fatigue, improve adherence, and introduce measurable environmental benefits through reduced resource consumption

While hypofractionation is already practised globally, the study's innovation lies in its climate-focused approach. "This is one of the first real-world prospective studies in India, one of the first to quantify carbon emissions (electricity + travel), one of the first to introduce CADS (Care Access Days Saved), and one of the first to position hypofractionation as a climate strategy," Dr Reddy said.

The study has been accepted for presentation at the ASCO Annual Meeting in June 2026, marking a significant step in aligning healthcare delivery with sustainability goals.

Classrooms get smart with AI

In a first for Karnataka, a government school in Vandse, under the Byndoor education block, is set to introduce an AI-powered teacher for classroom instruction.

The Government Model Higher Primary School in Vandse, which has often drawn attention for its innovative initiatives, will formally launch the AI teacher, named 'Iris', on April 11. Developed under NITI Aayog's Atal Tinkering Lab initiative, Iris is designed to transform traditional teaching methods with advanced features and interactive learning capabilities.

The AI teacher can communicate in 20 languages, respond instantly, and offer personalised learning, making classes more engaging, especially in English.

The launch will coincide with a science fest, where a Rs 4 lakh kindergarten block will also be inaugurated. The school, an early adopter of English-medium and tech-based learning, is now integrating AI into classrooms. **— BMB**

HAL hub reopens with tech

HAL Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum, recognised as the country's first aerospace museum, has been revamped and reopened with modern upgrades. The upgraded facility will be open to the public from April 13. Established in 2001, the museum is not just a display of aircraft but a reflection of India's engineering capabilities and contributions to national service. With its new design and advanced technology, it promises a more engaging experience for visitors. The museum now features a life-size replica of the Hindustan Turbofan Engine, models of aircraft such as Prachand and Tejas, and special exhibits showcasing Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's achievements. Visitors can also experience a cockpit simulator of the Dhruv helicopter. Dedicated children's zones feature games, quizzes, and a space module. Iconic aircraft like Marut, Ajit, Tejas, Dhruv, and MiG-21 are on display. The museum on Airport Road, Marathahalli, is open from 9 am to 4.30 pm. **— BMB**

PUC results go haywire online

A technical error marred the announcement of the II PUC Exam-1 results for the 2025–26 academic year, with the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board issuing marks higher than the maximum in some cases.

While the examination is conducted for a total of 600 marks across six subjects, one student was mistakenly awarded 683 marks. In another instance, a student received 101 marks in Hindi, a paper meant for 100 marks. The discrepancies, which left students surprised, were quickly brought to the attention of board officials.

The board later clarified that the error was due to a technical glitch in the website and software system. Officials reviewed the results, corrected the mistakes, and released revised scorecards. The board blamed a programming error while converting marks from 80 to 100 for private and repeat candidates, and has now issued corrected results. **— BMB**

New rules tighten SSLC results

The Education Department has proposed a significant overhaul of SSLC examination rules, introducing a revised passing criterion along with key changes to the evaluation system.

As per the new draft regulations, students will now be required to secure a minimum of 173 marks out of 525 to pass the examination. In addition to this overall benchmark, candidates must also score at least 30 per cent in each subject and secure a combined minimum of 33 per cent, including both internal and external assessments, to be declared pass. The proposed amendments, issued under the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board Act, 1966, are set to come into effect from the 2025–26 academic year.

Third language and NSQF subjects will now be graded and treated as additional, not affecting pass or fail. The move aims to standardise assessment, with a seven-day window for public feedback before final rules. **— BMB**

Dr Akshay Dhanda: A Leading Name in Orthopaedics in Bengaluru

Dr Akshay Dhanda is a prominent orthopaedic specialist in Bengaluru, particularly in the fields of sports medicine and joint replacement surgery. With growing demand for advanced musculoskeletal care, his work reflects a focus on both clinical precision and patient-centred treatment.

He is known for diagnosing and managing complex musculoskeletal conditions involving muscles, ligaments, joints and bones. His approach combines clinical assessment with evidence-based treatment protocols, allowing him to handle a wide spectrum of orthopaedic cases.

Dr Akshay Dhanda
Consultant – Orthopaedics, Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation

Proven Credentials

Dr Akshay Dhanda completed his MBBS from Kasturba Medical College and his MS in Orthopaedics from Mysore Medical College. He holds a fellowship in Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine from the Indian Arthroscopic Society under Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, along with the Gopalakrishnan Travelling Fellowship. He is a member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (MNAMS) and has also earned a DNB in Orthopaedics. He further completed a fellowship in upper limb arthroscopy in South Korea and holds a Diploma in Football Medicine from FIFA.

Advanced Procedures

Dr Dhanda specialises in minimally invasive arthroscopic surgeries of the knee and shoulder, including ACL reconstructions, meniscus repairs, cartilage restoration procedures and complex shoulder surgeries.

Sports Excellence

His experience includes working with reputed football teams, which has contributed to his expertise in treating sports-related injuries. He has also handled joint replacement, hip and knee orthopaedic cases, and is experienced in managing elderly patients with multiple co-existing conditions through careful surgical planning and structured rehabilitation.

Core Expertise

- Trauma orthopaedic surgery
- Joint replacement
- Sports medicine
- Arthroscopy
- Paediatric orthopaedics

Complete Solutions

He is trained in advanced orthopaedic treatments such as external fixation, deformity correction and management of non-union fractures. His clinical work also includes paediatric orthopaedics, particularly in addressing congenital deformities in children.

Faster Recovery

Dr Dhanda focuses on comprehensive recovery by designing rehabilitation programmes that emphasise injury prevention, muscle strengthening and a safe return to daily or sports activities. He also provides guidance on post-surgical care, which plays a key role in improving patient outcomes.

Continuous Innovation

He regularly participates in workshops, seminars and hands-on training programmes to stay aligned with evolving surgical techniques and innovations in orthopaedics. Dr Dhanda is fluent in English, Hindi and Kannada, enabling effective communication with a diverse patient base.

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Vriksh Fertility Leads the Way in IVF Excellence

Vriksh Fertility Centre has emerged as a trusted name in IVF treatment, known for its consistent results and patient-centric approach. With centres located in HSR Layout and Whitefield, Vriksh Fertility offers comprehensive fertility care backed by advanced infrastructure and fully equipped laboratories. The centre has built its reputation by ensuring that quality is never compromised, providing couples with reliable and effective treatment options under one roof.

Couples who walk into Vriksh Fertility with the hope of starting a family rarely leave disappointed. The team of experienced specialists is known for handling even the most complex fertility challenges, bringing joy and new beginnings into many lives. Beyond medical treatment, the centre also provides emotional support, recognising the sensitive nature of fertility journeys. Equipped with modern facilities and a highly trained staff, Vriksh Fertility focuses on delivering holistic care that combines expertise with compassion.

Dr. Sneha Shetty
Fertility Specialist & Medical Director
Vriksh Fertility Centre

Specialised Care

Vriksh Fertility also offers advanced treatment for male infertility, an area often overlooked. With years of experience, the centre has successfully addressed numerous complex male fertility issues, ensuring comprehensive care for couples seeking parenthood.

Awards & Recognition

Dr. Sneha Shetty has received several accolades for her contribution to the medical field, including the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Medical Excellence Award in 2012, the Big Health Award by Big FM in 2023, and the Times Health Excellence Award in 2023 for outstanding achievement in infertility treatment and services.

Holistic Healing

At Vriksh Fertility, experience plays a key role in success. The centre offers advanced, ethical and comprehensive solutions for infertility, including personalised counselling, nutritional guidance and lifestyle support programmes that enhance treatment outcomes. The approach prioritises natural conception methods first, with IVF recommended only when necessary. This ensures that every couple receives the most suitable and least invasive treatment path.

Dedication and Expertise

Leading this mission is Dr. Sneha Shetty, Medical Director and Fertility Specialist, whose dedication and expertise set her apart. After completing her MBBS from SDM Medical College, she pursued post graduation in Obstetrics and Gynaecology from Mahadevappa Rampure Medical College, graduating with a gold medal. She further enhanced her skills with a fellowship and diploma in laparoscopic surgery from World Laparoscopy Hospital, Delhi, and specialised training in reproductive medicine and IVF from Homerton University Hospital, London, and UKSH, Germany.

Dr. Sneha Shetty is widely appreciated for her empathetic approach. She listens patiently to every couple, understands their concerns and provides clear, personalised guidance.

"Our goal is to offer transparent, high-quality and affordable treatment. The trust of our patients has helped our services grow through word of mouth," she says.

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Dry borewells push citizens towards costly tanker water

Water crisis deepens around Hosakerehalli Lake as neglect, sewage inflow and halted work continue to force residents to rely on expensive tanker supplies

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At the very onset of summer, hundreds of residents in and around Hosakerehalli Lake in west Bengaluru are grappling with water scarcity.

Residents from various layouts say borewells in the area go dry starting April, as the rejuvenation work of the 53-acre water body was halted a couple of years ago by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (formerly Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike).

"Over the last two years, bore wells around the lake have started going dry in April. Residents have no other option but to depend on tanker water supply for three long months, between April and June. We are already getting water tankers at the cost of Rs 1,3000," said Subramani, a resident.

Nearly a hundred residents met Bengaluru MP CN Manjunath on Saturday and requested that rejuvenation work be resumed at the earliest. Notably, GBA began the rejuvenation of the lake in May 2023 after repeated requests from residents. However, concrete work and desilting were stopped soon after due to the arrival of the rainy season. Officials had assured that development would resume after the monsoon, but residents allege no progress has been made since then.

Lake neglect leads to worsening living conditions in surrounding areas; Inset: Hosakerehalli residents met Bengaluru MP CN Manjunath on Saturday

The lake has now been abandoned and turned into a dumping ground. Untreated sewage is being diverted from nearby areas, worsening the situation.

> **"Stench is unbearable. While solid waste collection happens frequently, it is turning into a garbage yard. Big autos come regularly to dump garbage, leading to various issues for the residents**
> – Rachna Ravi Kiran, a resident

"Since the lake is big, there are many residential societies and apartment complexes surrounding the water body. A lot of sewage and garbage is being dumped into the lake, leading to a mosquito menace. Stench is unbearable. While solid waste collection happens frequently, it is turning into a garbage yard. Big autos come regularly to dump garbage, leading to various issues for the residents," said Rachna Ravi Kiran, a resident of Hosekerahalli.

Residents of RR Nagar said that the lake has completely dried up. They added that earlier, drainage water flowing from Banashankari to the Nayandalli purification unit was released into the lake, which was stopped only after protests.

During rains, the lake, now filled with sewage, overflows and causes inconvenience to residents in surrounding areas.

City streets overrun by unchecked illegal advertisement boards

Visual pollution continues increasing across Bengaluru, with authorities failing to curb unauthorised hoardings despite crackdowns, fines and promises of stricter enforcement

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Bengaluru is witnessing a surge in unchecked visual pollution, with public spaces increasingly cluttered by unauthorised advertisements, flex boards, banners, buntings and posters. The situation has reached a point where anyone can put up promotional material anywhere, severely affecting the city's appearance.

Although the state government notified the Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisements) Rules, 2025, which came into effect on January 13, 2026, enforcement has remained weak. Key steps such as identifying advertisement zones, floating tenders for hoardings and cracking down on illegal displays are yet to be completed. Even the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme introduced to regularise legacy ads and convert self-advertisement boards into commercial ones has seen little response from agencies.

Even warnings from Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who had directed officials to impose fines ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh per illegal flex, have had little impact. Political banners, especially those put up by supporters to mark leaders' birthdays or local events, dominate public spaces, often without permission. Despite complaints, civic authorities have largely failed to act, allowing the problem to persist.

Data shows that thousands of unauthorised hoardings have been removed across zones; 19,630 in East, 6,960 in West, 5,456 in South, 1,740 in North and 2,140 in Central, adding up to 35,926. However, enforcement remains inconsistent. The five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority are projecting ₹664.75 crore in advertisement revenue for 2026–27, a sharp jump from ₹30–40 crore collected annually earlier.

Ravi Deva, a college student, said, "The proliferation of LED boards and colourful hoardings at junctions is also causing distraction to motorists. The issue had briefly been brought under control following a 2018 High Court crackdown, which led to the removal of all illegal hoardings within a week and the adoption of stricter by-laws. However, eight years later, the problem has resurfaced."

> **"The issue had briefly been brought under control following a 2018 High Court crackdown, which led to the removal of all illegal hoardings within a week and the adoption of stricter by-laws. However, eight years later, the problem has resurfaced**
> – Ravi Deva, College student

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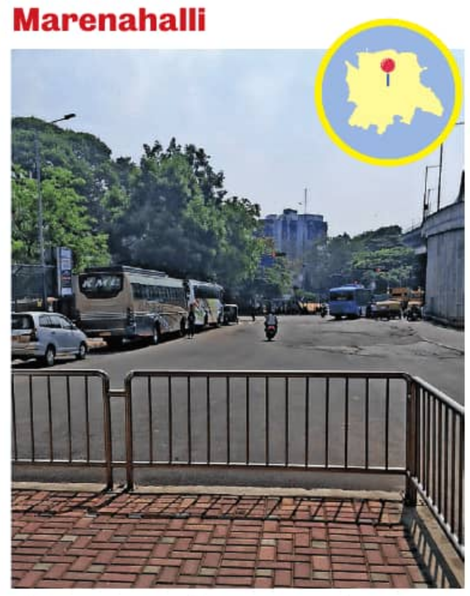
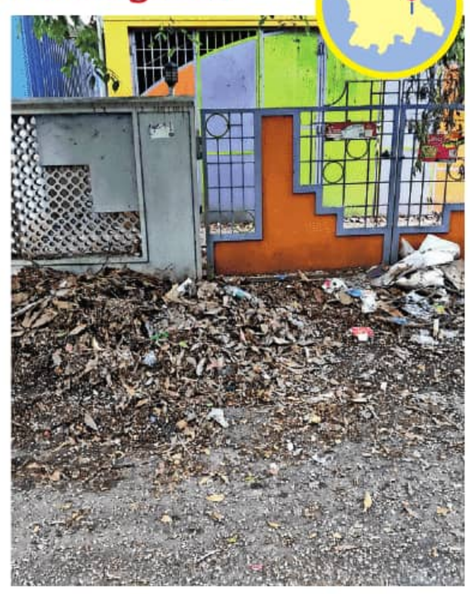
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Bus won't stop
Marenahalli



Encroachment and illegal parking at the Marenahalli Petrol Bunk bus stop in 9th Block Jayanagar near Ragigudda Metro are preventing buses from halting, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Civic appeal
Bannerghatta



Residents of 1st Cross, Pai Layout near Hulimavu Gate on Bannerghatta Road are urging authorities to address a civic issue affecting their neighbourhood.

Work delayed
Neelasandra

Incomplete road and sewer works for nearly two years have left Rose Garden Road, Neelasandra in a damaged state, disrupting daily movement.

Bengaluru protests against inhumane DRDO dog incident

In a strong and peaceful show of civic unity, over a hundred citizens gathered at Freedom Park on Saturday to protest against the illegal and inhumane pick-up and execution of community dogs from the DRDO Phase 2 campus in Kaggadasapura, Bengaluru.

The protest, led by CV Raman Nagar Animal Squad, brought together residents, animal welfare groups, legal experts and volunteers from across the city, united in demanding accountability, transparency and adherence to law and science. On March 5, residents of the DRDO Phase 2 campus in Kaggadasapura found three dogs with their legs and mouths tied inside a truck. The animals were found stuffed into double-layered plastic bags and gunny sacks.

The incident has triggered widespread outrage over extreme cruelty, violation of animal welfare laws and disregard for due process. Following the incident, BBMP lodged an FIR at Mahadevapura Police Station, and the matter is being heard before the High Court, with the next hearing on April 16, 2026. Citizens demanded answers from DRDO and authorities to prevent recurrence.

They called for disclosure of missing dogs, accountability, strict enforcement of Animal Birth Control Rules, and adoption of humane, science-based long-term solutions. "The DRDO episode is illegal, cruel, and nothing can justify it. The perpetrators must be brought to justice," Ramya/Divya Spandana, Actress, Former MP.

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Over hundred citizens gathered protesting illegal inhumane dog executions

"Whatever happened to the DRDO is an act of absolute inhumanity," said Sudha Narayan, Trustee, CARE.

"Bengaluru is the only city in the country that has an established animal welfare network that works in tandem with the GBA and NGOs to take care of all our street animals, including the ones at DRDO. So, when individuals or institutions act unlawfully and cruelly, we cannot and will not keep quiet," said Priya Chetty Rajagopal, CJ Memorial Trust.

—BMB

KSPCB struggles as vacancies stall pollution monitoring work

Recruitment delays worsen staffing crisis at pollution control board

Lack of eligible candidates leaves key posts vacant at KSPCB, affecting ability to manage rising pollution concerns and maintain environmental standards effectively

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The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has stated that 152 administrative and scientific posts are vacant due to a lack of eligible candidates.

KSPCB's report to the National Green Tribunal notes that these are promotional, administrative and technical positions that remain unoccupied due to a lack of eligible candidates in the feeder cadre.

"152 promotional posts are vacant owing to the non-availability of eligible candidates in the feeder cadre. The Departmental Promotion Committee meeting will be held after the verification of backlog posts for promotion from the Social Welfare Department," KSPCB has informed.

Including these promotional vacancies, nearly 65% of the Board's total sanctioned posts remain vacant. As of April 1, out of 723 sanctioned administrative and scientific or engineering positions, 468 are unoccupied.

There are 420 scientific and engineering positions, of which only 153 are filled, leaving 267 vacant. Of these, 194 are direct recruitment posts, while 73 are to be filled through the feeder cadre.

Under 303 sanctioned administrative positions, only 102 are occupied, and 201 remain vacant. Of these, 119 are direct recruitment posts, 79 are to be filled through feeder cadre, and three are deputation posts.

> **"The present status of pollution in the city, whether air, water, or noise, shows the impact of a state pollution control board being short of staff. Not just B'luru's water bodies are reeling under high pollution, but the city's air quality index is also going south**
> —City-based environmentalist

The only other state pollution control boards with higher vacancy rates than KSPCB are Madhya Pradesh (67.46%), Manipur (66.38%), Bihar (93.05%), Jharkhand (91.14%) and Uttarakhand (77.67%).

According to KSPCB, the Karnataka government issued instructions on February 27 regarding the recruitment process, and the Board is taking necessary steps to initiate recruitment in compliance. However, no timeline has been specified for filling the vacancies.

KSPCB has been facing an acute staff shortage for several years. A 2021 performance audit by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had already highlighted that more than 56% of sanctioned posts for technical and non-technical staff were vacant.

Currently, nearly 65% of positions remain unfilled. In 2021, out of 682 sanctioned posts, 385 were vacant and only 297 were filled.

"A decent technical, scientific, and administrative staff strength plays an important role in keeping pollution levels under check through constant monitoring. However, the present status of pollution in the city, whether air, water, or noise, shows the impact of a state pollution control board being short of staff. Not just Bengaluru's water bodies are reeling under high pollution, but the city's air quality index is also going south," said a city-based environmentalist.

IN BRIEF

Class 1 age rule relaxed

The Karnataka government has issued an official order granting a 60-day relaxation in the age limit for Class 1 admissions for the 2026–27 academic year. This one-time concession allows children who have completed 5 years and 10 months to be eligible for admission to Class 1 in the upcoming academic session.

The order, issued by the Under Secretary of the School Education and Literacy Department, states that this relaxation has been provided under the provisions of Section 20 of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983. Schools have been directed to calculate eligibility by allowing a maximum relaxation of 60 days from June 1 while considering admissions.

—BMB

One arrested after fire causes death of five cows

A 49-year-old man was arrested after a careless act of burning garbage triggered a devastating fire in DJ Halli in the early hours of April 7, resulting in the death of five cows and extensive property damage.

Police said the fire broke out near cattle shed and a plywood sheet shop before rapidly spreading to adjacent structures. The blaze gutted two plywood shops and destroyed a Tata Ace vehicle along with four two-wheelers parked nearby. The cattle trapped inside the shed were unable to escape and were charred to death.

Following the incident, a case was registered at the DJ Halli Police Station. During the investigation, officers examined multiple angles and acting on credible information, traced and arrested the accused.

During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to habitually setting fire to garbage. On the day of the incident, he ignited waste at the spot, which quickly spiralled out of control and led to the massive fire. Police said the total loss is estimated at ₹15.2 lakh.

—BMB

THE SUNDAY READ

Trouble gets tracked down

With focus on technology, training and well-being, Bengaluru Police enhance readiness to tackle cyber threats, drugs and complex policing challenges

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A city as vast and dynamic, with multicultural aspects, as Bengaluru requires policing that goes beyond routine law enforcement. With growing challenges emerging from organised drug networks and sophisticated cybercrime attacks, Bangalore Mirror spoke to Commissioner of Bengaluru Police, Seemant Kumar Singh, to understand the force's preparedness and vigilance programmes.

The training framework followed by the city police combines indoor, classroom-based learning with outdoor, field-driven exposure for better results. From high-ranking officers to staff members, all undergo orientation programmes that familiarise them with critical systems such as Control Room operations, Common Service Centre operations linked to the Emergency Response Support System, popularly known as Namma 112, along with CCTV surveillance networks and Traffic Management Centre functions.

The multifaceted training modules are structured to aid officers of all ranks in operating systems such as smart enforcement mechanisms, ITMS camera monitoring, ASTraM software and crime record tracking through centralised databases. On the ground, exposure to field-level intelligence collection, security audits of vital installations, threat assessment and social media monitoring helps the force secure all aspects.

KAUSHIK JN

City police are constantly upgrading their capabilities in cybercrime investigation, digital forensics and financial fraud, along with organised crime, which form a significant part of the training modules.

With narcotics posing a threat to the tech city, focused training is imparted in NDPS investigations, including preventive detention under PIT NDPS and provisions of the Goonda Act. The Commissioner shared that in less than three months of the new year, city police were able to seize drugs worth ₹90 crore, while last year it was ₹250 crore.

"For tackling cybercrime, we conduct online sessions every Thursday at the state level and have devised a hybrid model for officers to gain on-the-ground experience. Our officers are sent in batches to the CID for continuous upskilling and exposure to new technologies," Singh said, highlighting that, as first responders, the conduct and efficiency of police personnel significantly shape public perception. The police place emphasis on training related to the Emergency Response Support System. Officials handling 112 calls undergo extensive and continuous technical and behavioural training to ensure a prompt response at every stage.

The department constantly upgrades the police force, as officers and staff across ranks are nominated on a rotational basis for various programmes conducted by state and central training institutions. Under the guidelines, newly recruited personnel, including over 250 PSIs and 1,300 police constables, undergo basic training across institutions in the state, gaining first-hand exposure to law and order scenarios through deployments in bandobast duties at major locations.

The department places equal emphasis on the physical fitness of the police force. "On a weekly basis, we conduct parades twice a week to keep everyone physically active. If not, we organise activities such as lathi drills and fire drills to maintain readiness," he said, adding that the city police participate in mock drills regularly in collaboration with state and national-level agencies such as the NSG (National Security Guard). During these, officers focus on hostage situations, multiple attacks and evacuation protocols. The system follows a clear mechanism where the local police become the first responders, followed by the Garuda force, and, if escalated further, central forces take over in a well-laid-out protocol.

The Commissioner also said that police personnel are entitled to annual health check-ups, which cover a wide variety of medical tests such as blood work and cardiac screening. He added that they have access to cashless insurance covering their families and are supported by a pooled fund with government contributions.

Alongside this, the Commissioner monitors the fitness of personnel in the city force through a CSR initiative called the Khushi Programme, involving wellness and fitness professionals who help officials maintain consistency. He highlighted that the department has replaced unhealthy fried snacks in meals with healthier options such as fruits and vegetables, noting that many officers have made conscious choices.

"For tackling cybercrime, we conduct online sessions every Thursday at the state level and have devised a hybrid model for officers to gain on-the-ground experience. Our officers are sent in batches to the CID for continuous upskilling and exposure to new technologies"

— Seemant Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Bengaluru Police

Iyer's sober 69 guides Punjab Kings to six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad

Punjab remain unbeaten, make chase look easy-peasy

Captain Shreyas Iyer remained unbeaten at 69 while Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh scored quick half-centuries as Punjab Kings (PBKS) chased down the target of 220 runs in just 18.5 overs against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the 17th match of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the PCA New International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh on Saturday.

With this win, PBKS remain unbeaten this season. They now have seven points from four matches, with one game against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) abandoned due to rain.

Chasing a big total, the Punjab Kings got off to a flying start. Openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh continued their good form and attacked the SRH bowlers right from the start. Priyansh took the lead early, playing aggressive shots all around the ground.

He scored 21 runs in the final over of the Power-play off Harshal Patel and reached his fifty in just 16 balls with back-to-back boundaries. This became the second-fastest fifty for Punjab Kings, just behind KL Rahul's 14-ball half-century in 2018. Prabhsimran also played his part well, and PBKS reached 93/0 at the end of the Power-play.

THREE MUSKETEERS OF PUNJAB KINGS
1. Punjab Kings' Priyansh Arya celebrates after scoring a half-century; **2.** Punjab Kings' captain Shreyas Iyer plays a shot during the IPL match between Punjab Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad, at MYS Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, Saturday; **3.** Punjab Kings' Indian cricket player Prabhsimran Singh watches the ball after playing a shot

SRH finally got a breakthrough in the seventh over when Shivang Kumar dismissed Priyansh Arya, who scored 57 off just 20 balls with five fours and five sixes. Shivang struck again in his next over, removing Prabhsimran Singh after he completed his fifty in 24 balls. He scored 51 runs, hitting four fours and four sixes. Despite these wickets, PBKS are in a strong position at 124/2 after 10 overs.

Shivang continued his good spell and picked up another wicket, dismissing Cooper Connolly with a wide delivery outside off stump.

Steady on

Captain Shreyas Iyer steadied the innings along with impact substitute Nehal Wadhera. The pair rotates the strike well and punishes loose deliveries to keep the pressure on SRH.

Iyer then shifted gears after the 13th over and reached his fifty in 24 balls with a six off Eshan Malinga in the 16th over. He stayed unbeaten on 69, while Shashank Singh supported him with an unbeaten 16, as PBKS chased down the target with seven balls to spare and six wickets in hand.

For SRH, Shivang Kumar was the standout bowler, finishing with figures of 3/33 in four overs. Harsh Dubey chips in with one wicket. Earlier in the match, Sunrisers Hyderabad made a strong start after being put in to bat, with openers Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head attacking from the very beginning.

Abhishek led the charge, scoring 20 runs in one over off Arshdeep Singh and reaching his fifty in just 18 balls with two consecutive sixes. Head also played aggressively, hitting three boundaries in an over, as SRH raced to 105/0 at the end of the powerplay.

Punjab Kings made a comeback in the ninth over when Shashank Singh dismissed Head for 38, ending the 120-run opening partnership. —IANS

Today's battle

Lucknow Super Giants VS Gujarat Titans
3.30 PM Ekana Stadium, Lucknow

Mumbai Indians VS Royal Challengers Bengaluru
7.30 PM Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

Sanju shines as CSK take control

Chennai Super Kings took control of the game after Delhi Capitals' innings faltered despite a strong start, as wickets fell at regular intervals in the middle overs during the IPL match at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Saturday.

Chennai Super Kings' Sanju Samson celebrates his century

Chennai fans were treated to a sparkling unbeaten 115 off 56 balls by Sanju Samson, the first century of this season, while Ayush Mhatre slammed 59 off 36 deliveries as CSK posted 212/2 in their 20 overs against Delhi Capitals.

Samson, the hero of India's triumph in the Men's T20 World Cup 2026, lit up Chepauk with his scintillating stroke-play, particularly through the off-side, to hit 15 fours and four sixes at a strike-rate of 205.36. Apart from being the first wicketkeeper-batter to hit a century for CSK, Samson is also the second batter after KL Rahul to score a hundred for three different IPL teams – DC, RR, and now CSK.

He also shared a 113-run stand with Mhatre, who hit his second fifty of the season via three fours and four sixes, as CSK posted a commanding total. For DC, barring skipper Axar Patel taking a wicket, the rest of their bowlers had a forgetful night. Their fielding was also poor- Mhatre got a couple of reprieves and Samson was dropped on 52, which proved to be costly.

Inserted into batting first, Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad added 61 runs in the Power-play. Samson was fluent from the outset, driving, cutting, and chipping with authority, while Gaikwad laboured to 18-ball 15 before falling to Axar Patel in the seventh over. Mhatre joined Samson at the crease, and the duo regularly sent balls soaring over the boundary ropes and capitalised on sloppy fielding from DC. Mhatre, who got twin reprieves, was retired out in the 18th over after suffering a brief slowdown - a tactical move that brought Shivam Dube to the crease.

Samson, meanwhile, reached the three-figure mark with a flick off T. Natarajan and celebrated with a Padayappa-style salute that drew roars from the Chepauk crowd donning yellow, chanting his name loudly. —Agencies

It's a marathon, not every game will go your way: RCB's Dinesh Karthik

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's batting coach and team mentor Dinesh Karthik praised the team's character and resilience following their first away fixture of the season against Rajasthan Royals, where the side went down by six wickets.

"It's important to understand that in a tournament like the IPL, it's a marathon; you're not going to win every game. But if the team keeps showing character, keeps fighting, that's how you excel," said Karthik.

Karthik pointed out that the surface was not the easiest to bat on, making the team's total an impressive effort. "I felt the pitch was not that easy to bat on. It wasn't really coming on, and Dev's dismissal just showed that the pitch was sticking. In spite of all the challenges that we had, to get to the score that we did was a wonderful effort."

Karthik reserved special praise for Rajat Patidar, highlighting both his shot-making and temperament.

"Rajat Patidar was special. It's great to see him play so well, not just in terms of shot-making but also in understanding the situation of the game. The way he made sure he was there almost right till the end shows his character. We are very happy as a group to see how well he reacted to that tough situation."

He also lauded the contributions of Impact Player, Venkatesh Iyer and Romario Shepherd.

"Venkatesh Iyer wasn't originally slotted in to bat, but he was told late that he might need to step in. For him to grab his opportunity with both hands and make an impact was wonderful. I'm sure he's going to have a bright season whenever he gets the opportunity. Shepherd also batted nicely. I'm sure he would have wanted more, but it was good to see him bat the way he did."

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli congratulates Rajasthan Royals' Skipper Riyan Parag after Rajasthan Royals win by 6 wickets

With the ball, Karthik acknowledged the team's effort to stay in the contest despite a strong start from the opposition. "We got an early wicket in Jaiswal, which set the tone. It's great to have Josh Hazlewood back, and as always, he got his job done in the first over."

"But as it happens in the IPL, there was an extraordinary knock, and they batted beautifully. Still, to take the game that deep after the start they had tells you the character in this team." Karthik also praised Krunal Pandya's leadership under pressure.

"He's a fighter. In clutch situations, he brings out strong performances. He thought out of the box, set interesting fields, and showed how to bowl under pressure."

Reflecting on the support from the stands, Karthik expressed gratitude to the travelling fans."It's amazing to come to Guwahati and still see so much support. There were so many people backing us. It's a great feeling. Yes, the result didn't go our way, but we tried our best and did everything possible to make it a good match."

Bengaluru will now turn their attention to their next fixture in Mumbai, where they take on the Mumbai Indians today. —ANI

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

TINY SEED GUARDIAN

Our reader shares a delightful image of a Pale-billed Flowerpecker spotted from a terrace in J P Nagar, capturing one of the smallest birds measuring just about 8 cm in length. Despite its tiny size, this bird plays a vital role in the ecosystem by effectively dispersing seeds, contributing to the balance and regeneration of plant life. The intimate terrace setting adds a personal touch, bringing nature's quiet yet significant wonders closer to home.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Flyovers, underpasses, skywalks: Traffic police propose chaos cure

Traffic police recommend sweeping upgrades, from relocating bus stops to safer junctions, aiming to cut congestion and protect pedestrians

In a comprehensive effort to tackle the city's persistent traffic congestion, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have submitted a detailed report to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), recommending a series of large-scale infrastructure upgrades. The report highlights the urgent need for 25 underpasses, 35 flyovers, and 101 skywalks across key locations in the city to streamline vehicular movement and enhance pedestrian safety.

Officials warn that nearly 2,000 new vehicles hit Bengaluru's roads every day, and without immediate intervention, traffic conditions could worsen significantly. The report identifies narrow roads, rising vehicle density and frequent traffic rule violations as major causes of congestion. To address these issues, the police suggest removing poorly planned bus stops near major junctions, improving road conditions and redesigning high-traffic intersections. Authorities have marked around 103 bus stops located within 50 metres of key junctions for relocation, noting that they create bottlenecks and disrupt traffic flow.

The report also flags waterlogging during the monsoon as a major concern. Traffic police have identified 137 locations where even moderate rainfall leads to water accumulation, slowing vehicles and damaging road surfaces. Officials recommend immediate corrective measures at these spots before the next monsoon, warning that prolonged waterlogging hampers traffic and increases accident risks.

Pedestrian safety remains a key focus area. Traffic police data show that over 200 pedestrians lose their lives annually due to inadequate infrastructure. Although fatalities have declined slightly from 260 in 2023 to 225 in 2025, officials say the numbers remain alarming. The report strongly pushes for 101 skywalks and improved pedestrian crossings along high-risk corridors such as Old Madras Road, HAL Airport Road, Mysuru Road, Kanakapura Road and Nagarabhavi Ring Road.

A detailed proposal outlines new infrastructure, accident-prone zone fixes, and pedestrian safety measures, promising smoother commutes and safer streets if implemented with urgency and coordination across the city

A senior official said, "Additionally, several accident-prone zones near national highways and major arterial roads have been identified for urgent intervention. Roads connecting to highways have recorded a higher number of fatal accidents, prompting the recommendation for underpasses or signal-free corridors at 25 major junctions, including Hebbal, Yelahanka, Sarakki Circle, and Bannerghatta Road. Similarly, the construction of flyovers has been proposed at busy intersections like Varthur Kodi, Dommasandra, Gunjur, Siddapura, and Yelahanka Old Town to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow."

The report also recommends removing 84 unnecessary speed breakers, building 63 bus bays, developing 75 safe junctions and constructing up to 66 multi-level parking facilities to improve urban mobility. **— BMB**

Rising vehicle density and narrow roads highlighted as key contributors to worsening congestion, with immediate interventions recommended to prevent further deterioration

DID YOU KNOW?

For two decades, members of the Ngogo chimpanzee group in Kibale National Park were observed being engaged in feeding, resting, traveling and grooming, before a fracture was witnessed and prolonged violence was experienced. The first clearly documented split into two factions was reported, with coordinated attacks being launched and 28 deaths being recorded. Violent acts such as biting, pounding, dragging and kicking were described as being carried out, mostly by adult males. Since 1995, this largest-known group, peaking at 200, has been studied. Unlike earlier cases involving strangers, familiar individuals were attacked. Lifelong bonds had been formed but were later broken. Destabilisation was attributed to large group size, intensified competition and illness-related deaths. A change in alpha leadership was also observed. By 2017, two factions had been formed, and violence was initiated in 2018. Fatalities were believed to have been caused by internal injuries, while infants were killed quickly. The Western group was expanded and no casualties were reported. Similarities to civil war were noted, though direct comparisons with humans were cautioned against. **— Reuters**

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Did Vin suffer a stroke? Truth behind viral hospital images with John Cena revealed

The Claim: Posts claimed Vin Diesel suffered a severe stroke, lost ability to walk, was hospitalised in a wheelchair with John Cena beside him, asking fans for support through emotional messages online widely.
Fact: No credible evidence shows Vin Diesel had a stroke; viral hospital and wheelchair images with John Cena were AI-generated, with no official statements, reports, or confirmation from his social media.

Vin Diesel's name suddenly started trending after a shocking post spread on Facebook on March 18. The post claimed the Fast & Furious star had suffered a stroke and could not walk anymore. It showed him sitting in a wheelchair in a hospital gown, holding a sign that read, "Stroke took my legs and maybe my career. Will you still stand by me?" Actor John Cena stood next to him, making the story feel real to many people. The post quickly gained attention and crossed thousands of likes, leaving fans worried. But a closer look shows the story does not hold up. There is no real proof that Vin Diesel was ever hospitalised or suffered a stroke, and no official statement, verified report, or update from his social media supports the claim.

The viral posts originated from a Facebook page named Space funk. Along with the wheelchair image, another picture showed Diesel lying in a hospital bed holding a sign that read, "I'm going into life-or-death surgery tomorrow… Will you pray for me." John Cena again appeared beside him, while captions described an emotional scene of silent support.

However, these images are not real. AI detection tools indicate that around 70 percent of the visuals were likely generated using tools such as Nano Banana or Imagen, explaining their dramatic yet slightly unnatural appearance. The page's credibility also weakens further due to inconsistent posts. Within days, it shared conflicting claims about Diesel, including one showing him healthy in a wrestling ring with Cena and another falsely stating he had welcomed a newborn baby.

In reality, Diesel has three children with his longtime partner Paloma Jiménez, and their youngest child was born in 2015. He has not mentioned any health concerns. His recent Instagram post shows him meeting and hugging his Fast & Furious co-star Jordana Brewster, with no indication of any medical emergency.

Instead, Diesel remains focused on work. On January 30, he shared an update about the next film in the franchise, Fast Forever, planned for release on March 17, 2028. He also remembered Paul Walker, writing, "No one said the road would be easy but it's ours. One that has defined us and become our legacy and a legacy that lasts forever." **— Times of India**

FROM SCALPEL TO SOFTWARE

Drone-enabled robotic surgical unit that can operate upon injured soldiers trapped in remote regions exhibits reach of tech-savvy medical care

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Every leap in surgery has faced its share of scepticism. There was a time when even anaesthesia was debated, when antiseptic practices were resisted, and more recently, when laparoscopic surgery in the 1990s was dismissed by some as risky, expensive and unnecessary. Surgeons had to relearn techniques, hospitals had to invest in new equipment, and patients took time to trust smaller incisions over traditional open procedures.

Over the years, those concerns were addressed through training, better outcomes and wider access, turning laparoscopy into the default choice for many routine surgeries.

Now, robotic-assisted surgery appears to be at a similar crossroads, moving from being seen as elite technology to becoming part of everyday medical practice, while also pushing the boundaries of where and how surgery can be delivered.

At the SSI Multi-Specialty Robotic Surgery Conference (SMRSC) 2026, this transition was clearly visible. Conversations and demonstrations reflected not just refinement within hospitals but also experimentation beyond them. Among the more striking ideas was a system designed for battlefield medicine.

In high-risk zones such as the Siachen Glacier or along the Line of Control, injuries ranging from frostbite to gunshot wounds often require immediate attention, but evacuation to advanced facilities can take critical time. To bridge this gap, a drone-enabled robotic surgical unit was showcased, designed to be deployed directly to the site of injury. The system would allow surgeons to perform emergency procedures remotely, including bleeding control, chest decompression and removal of shrapnel, stabilising patients before evacuation.

"Even as the technology advances, the questions remain grounded. Can it be made affordable beyond big cities? Will training keep pace with adoption? And how will outcomes compare across different settings?

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH and Health & Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav, who unveiled the system, said, "India is fast emerging as a global hub for advanced medical technologies. Innovations like Project Vimana, Project Operion and SSI KAYA reflect the strength of our indigenous capabilities."

While such applications are still under development, they point to a wider trend where robotics is being integrated with technologies like 5G and satellite connectivity to extend specialised care to remote and underserved regions.

Within hospitals, robotic systems are already finding a steady place, particularly in urology, oncology and cardiac surgery. Since their introduction in India in the early 2000s, their presence has grown across major urban centres. However, experts say adoption brings its own set of challenges, especially in training. Dr Sudhir Srivastava, Founder, Chairman and CEO of SS Innovations International, said the shift towards technology-driven surgery calls for changes in medical education. "The time has come to train medicos early in robotics," he said, adding that discussions are underway to introduce the subject during MBBS and continue it through post-graduation. He also highlighted the potential of tele-surgery, noting that reliable connectivity could allow specialists to operate remotely without compromising safety.

Dr Ashutosh K Tewari of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai pointed out that India's mix of medical expertise and engineering talent gives it an edge in adopting such technologies. "India already has highly skilled doctors and a strong pool of engineers. Its digital ecosystem provides an advantage in scaling robotic technologies," he said. At the same time, he cautioned that access remains uneven, with robotic surgery still largely confined to metropolitan centres due to cost and infrastructure demands. Expanding its reach, he said, would require policy support, cost reduction and investment in healthcare infrastructure.

A medical expert added, "Even as the technology advances, the questions remain grounded. Can it be made affordable beyond big cities? Will training keep pace with adoption? And how will outcomes compare across different settings? For now, robotic surgery reflects a system in transition, where innovation is moving ahead, but its wider impact will depend on how these gaps are addressed in the years to come."

To the moon and back with dramatic splashdown

Artemis II's astronauts closed out humanity's first lunar voyage in more than half a century with a Pacific splashdown on Friday, blazing new records near the moon with grace and joy.

It was a dramatic grand finale to a mission that revealed not only swaths of the lunar far side never seen before by human eyes, but a total solar eclipse and a parade of planets, most notably our own shimmering Earth against the endless black void of space.

With their flight now complete, the four astronauts have set NASA up for a moon landing by another crew in just two years and a full-blown moon base within the decade.

The triumphant moon-farers — commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen — emerged from their bobbing capsule into the sunlight off the coast of San Diego.

In a scene reminiscent of NASA's Apollo moonshots of yesteryear, military helicopters hoisted the astronauts one by one from an inflatable raft docked to the capsule, hauling them aboard for

the short trip to the Navy's awaiting recovery ship, the USS John P. Murtha.

"These were the ambassadors from humanity to the stars that we sent out there right now, and I can't imagine a better crew," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said from the recovery ship.

NASA's Mission Control erupted in celebration, with hundreds pouring in from the back support rooms. "We did it," NASA's Lori Glaze rejoiced at a news conference. "Welcome to our moonshot."

Their Orion capsule, dubbed Integrity, made the entire plunge on automatic pilot.

The lunar cruiser hit the atmosphere traveling Mach 33 — or 33 times the speed of sound — a blistering blur not seen since the 1960s and 1970s Apollo. **AP**

BITS & BYTES

ALTMAN HOME ATTACK

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said on Saturday that a suspect hurled a Molotov cocktail at his San Francisco residence in the US, supposedly due to anger against tech leaders amid rising public anxiety about artificial intelligence (AI).

Altman posted on his personal blog a photograph of his private life and his child, following a dual-pronged attack targeting both the residence and the office of Altman. "The first person did it last night, at 3:45 am. Thankfully it bounced off the house and no one got hurt," the CEO wrote. **IANS**

BUSINESS OF SECURITY

In a bid to boost ease of doing business and strengthen cybersecurity oversight, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman launched three Information Technology platforms on March 24, the regulatory body said in a press release on Friday.

The initiatives - SUPCOMS, e-adjudication portal, and Cyber-Sec Audit Compliance (C-SAC) are aimed at streamlining communication, digitally enabling quasi-judicial proceedings, and enhancing cybersecurity supervision of SEBI-regulated entities.

SUPCOMS is a single universal platform for communications and replaces traditional email-centric interactions with SEBI. **ANI**

TIGHTER CONTROL

The European Commission on Friday said it was analysing whether OpenAI's ChatGPT should be considered a large online search engine under the rules of the Digital Services Act (DSA), after it reported user numbers above the threshold.

"OpenAI has published user numbers for ChatGPT above the 45 million DSA threshold for designation," Commission spokesman Thomas Regnier said.

"The Commission services are currently assessing this information."

Regnier said Large Language Models could potentially be in the scope of the DSA, but that this had to be analysed on a "case-by-case basis." **Reuters**

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Seeking compensation complex process that traps families in legal quandaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

number of hit-and-run incidents, though not the highest. Uttar Pradesh reported the maximum with 11,209 cases in 2024, followed by Tamil Nadu (5,799) and Bihar (5,759).

In Bengaluru alone, multiple hit-and-run incidents over the past year reflect the seriousness of the issue. In one case last September, Cottonpet, a 45-year-old pedestrian was killed after a speeding goods vehicle ran over her and continued moving, damaging several other vehicles before being stopped. In May last year, an advocate died after he was knocked down by a truck driver.

According to experts, hit-and-run cases are often difficult to crack due to a mix of on-ground challenges.

Advocate Omran Khan, partner at LegalCook Advocates & Solicitors, explains, "Hit-and-run cases are complex due to a combination of factual and legal challenges. It is often difficult to identify the vehicle involved due to lack of CCTV footage, defective or missing number plates, and the fact that such incidents usually occur late at night with rash and negligent driving."

According to Khan, from a legal standpoint, determining who was actually driving the vehicle becomes a major hurdle, especially when ownership and usage differ. "Additionally, delays in FIR registration, absence of immediate medical reports, lack of witnesses, and difficulties in conducting proper spot mahazar or panchnama weaken the case. If these foundational procedures are incomplete or defective, it hampers the entire investigation and trial process. Even after a charge sheet is filed, tracing the accused and serving summons becomes challenging, as many individuals are absconding or located at different addresses, making the resolution of such cases difficult," he said.

The data also highlights the status of compensation claims filed by victims or their families. In Karnataka, the number of claims has also increased in recent years. The state reported 193 claims registered and 130 settled in 2024-25, which rose to 463 claims registered and 385 settled in 2025-26 (till February).

"Victims and families get very minimal compensation as per the calculation under the Motor Vehicle act. They have to file the case before the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal. For this, a lot of documentation of the vehicle is required and factors such as valid insurance, driving licence, medical report, death, injury, as per the age, salary, breadwinner, dependants and compensation will be considered while taking a decision," Khan said.

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No resources and not much support, but win they will

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cord severely damaged. For the next two years, he battled depression and was abandoned by his family. He was then taken in by Swami Vivekananda Yoga University on humanitarian grounds, where he was treated, fed, and has been staying for nearly two decades now.

His entry into sports came unexpectedly when he met a local journalist in 2014 at the institute. The reporter introduced him to para athletics and encouraged him to compete in a state-level championship being held in Chennai.

Devendra signed up for wheelchair 100 metres, javelin and shot put. Unfamiliar with formal race procedures, he hesitated and was startled at the starting gun's sound. He watched his opponents pass by him with a sprint, then picked up the pace and, with the crowd cheering for him, he was more than ever determined to win the race. And he did. He got a bronze medal.

"When I was normal, I tried my hand in javelin, but my life was 10 percent sports and 90 percent movies which I enjoyed with my family. The moment I won the medal, I knew I was going to do this for the rest of my life. It gave me a new direction," he said.

Since then he has competed in many athletic events and won gold medals in javelin throw and shot put alongside wheelchair racing at national championships between 2014 and 2018. He went on to represent India at the 2019 Para Athletics Grand Prix in Paris. In 2021, he shifted to wheelchair fencing and won four medals in his debut year. Ever since that day, he has won 13 medals in wheelchair fencing.

On his training routine, he says that he comes to Kanteerava Stadium every alternate day, travelling a distance of 70 km. He then practices with the team from 5 pm to 8 pm. He maintains a protein-rich diet.

Despite financial struggles, with fencing equipment costing over Rs 2 lakh and international trips like Paris requiring a minimum budget of Rs 4 lakh, he continues to reinvest the money he gets from winning medals for his next win. He mentions that he receives occasional sponsorships.

"For international tournaments, the FI kits are very specific, so each player needs to have their own weapons. The tournament authorities conduct a rigorous check," he said.

Yamanappa BC's story

Born in 1983, Yamanappa BC has represented India at international events in countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Malaysia, Dubai and Thailand, competing in arm wrestling, athletics and other para sports.

He has a gold medal in arm wrestling at the National Para Arm Wrestling Championship held in Mumbai in 2024, along with multiple gold, silver and bronze medals at state-level competitions held in Mysuru, Hassan, Mangalore and Bengaluru. He has been a part of many prestigious sports tournaments like the National Para Athletics Championships, Khelo India Para Games held in New Delhi and para tenpin bowling championships.

Beyond competing, he is actively involved with the Paralympic Committee of India, where he works from the Bengaluru office, aiding in providing assistance to para athletes. He shares that his training experience in Kanteerava has been amazing, as their coach is one of a kind and provides the most essential training one can have. "Training is great, but the government needs to provide us with the funds to compete at the right time," he said.

"States like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh give a robust cash prize which helps athletes in their next medal mapping journey. The Karnataka government should focus more on deploying funds so that many struggling athletes coming from villages can get their one chance to prove themselves, and the numbers keep increasing," he said.

Thimmanna's tale

After suffering a severe electric shock while working in an electrical government-related role in his village, Thimmanna lost both his legs and parts of his arms, later relying on prosthetic limbs to rebuild mobility. While one of his arms was successfully restored surgically, he lost several fingers in the process.

He first made his run in the sporting arena in 2011, guided by his coach at the time, Sitaram, who encouraged him to explore athletics as a way forward.

It was that year that he started, and since then he has never looked back. He has competed in Kuwait, where he won a medal in athletics and from there went on to participate in four international events, including ones held in Russia and Thailand. In 2014, he secured a medal in Russia in breaststroke swimming. Adding more under his wing, he won a medal at a freestyle swimming 50 metres event in a record time of 39 seconds, exhibiting the focus he commands over any sport he picks. Over time, he took to fencing, where he found further success in winning two silver and one bronze at the Manipur Nationals, followed by three bronze medals in foil, epee and sabre Category A held in Chennai in 2019, followed by gold medals in Haryana in 2021. He shares that he had a setback in 2025 due to lack of practice, but he is not dejected.

"I am very happy in terms of how my life has turned out. If I wear a tracksuit, I look the same as the next person. My disabilities do not define me at this point," he said. For him, sport is not just a competition, but a way of redefining his identity with each win.

Raghavendra P's journey

Para Fencer Raghu has made his mark in the world with decades worth of experience in several games. He represented India in the Commonwealth Championship in London in 2022 and secured two silver medals and participated at the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup held in Thailand in 2022. Starting his career in 2013, he now has several golds and silver under his name from nationals held in Karnataka, Haryana and Bhubaneswar over the years.

Behind the dominating wins lies a demanding routine. Currently posted in a government job in Ballari, Raghavendra travels nearly 350 km to and fro over the weekend to Bengaluru to train.

"I leave on Friday and come here to practice and leave on Sunday as I have work on Monday," he said. With limited access to dedicated facilities, he trains long balls at a hockey ground after the hockey team is done practising. "We get to the ground after 1.30 pm. Due to lack of facilities and infrastructure, we train under the scorching sun," he said, adding that his weekends are packed training long ball and fencing.

He shares that his disability came rather unexpectedly. He was suffering a high fever and was administered a penicillin shot. The next morning, his body felt dead, leaving only his brain active. After his father's penurious attempts which extended to a year, he was finally able to gain strength in his upper body, while his lower body remained affected.

Despite the challenges, his passion for sports fueled his drive and he turned to sport as a way forward.

He shares that in order to fund his tournament costs, he was almost always let down by the state government, sometimes just two to three days before tournaments, which has now led him to take a loan of Rs 18 lakh, formal and informal, through family and friends. "Whatever I earn goes into my family and my daughter's education. For sports I have to arrange separately. My wife has been very supportive to me and on many occasions she has given me her jewellery," he said.

Despite challenges, he continues to evolve his career in sports. He has represented India in three Asian Games in long ball alongside athletics events on national and international levels.

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CHANGE OF NAME
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I, Mohammed Umar Shariff Residing at Cherry Aok, No 3, Flat No 202, 2nd Floor, Pettigrew Street, Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore- 560001, Have changed our minor daughter name LAIBA SHARIFF to MEHWISH ZAHRA FATHIMA, vide affidavit dated 11/04/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore.

I Ashwin Santanagopalan Sundaresan R/o Villa 23, Nvt Life Square Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru- 560046 have changed my minor daughter's name from Adwitha Ashwin Ashwin Santanagopalan to Adwitha Ashwin for all purpose

I, GANGA HEGDE residing at 481/4, RK City, Kachanayaka nahalli, Bommasandra, Bengaluru -560099 have changed my name to GANGA V HEGDE vide affidavit dated 11/04/2026 sworn before notary T V Bhadravijaya Bangalore

I, NASREEN ANWAR, R/a. #57 Shivaji Road Shivajinagar Bangalore–51. I have Changed my name to NASREEN BEGUM, Vide affidavit, dated 10/04/2026 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I Venkatesh R/O No.145/1 5th Main 2nd Cross Uttarahalli BSK V Stage Bengaluru-61 have changed my name to Venkateshaiah B

I, Harshul Prabhas Jain S/O Prabhas Abhayakumar R/o 64 3 Cross CR Layout JP Nagar Bangalore-78 have changed my name to Harshul Jain as per my 10th Marks Card, AADHAR & PAN

tender & notices

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PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby given notice that our client is intending to purchase the schedule Property from its present owners **Mrs. Poonam Anand Rishi** W/o. Bikramjit Singh Rishi and Mr. Bikramjit Singh Rishi,, Residing at 172/1, Versova Layout,Kaggadasapura Main Road, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 093. In the event any one has any objection or claim over the Schedule Property they may file the same with documentary proof before the under signed within **15 days** from the date of this notice failing which our client shall proceed with the transaction as if no such claim or objection subsists.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property bearing Flat No. 051, Khatha No. 17/1-8, Millers Road (Cantonment Railway Station and St. John Church Rroad) Jayamahal, Bangalore-560 046, with a built-up area of 2850 square feet, situated at Fifth Floor of the multi-storied Apartment Residential Building known and called as **"Gold Opus"** within New ward no 63 (old Ward No. 92) of BBMP, having BBMP Khatha of "A" category and presently having E-Swathu Khatha with **E.P.I.D No.6501390474,** with one covered car parking space in the basement floor and one uncovered car parking space in the ground floor open space, both specifically earmarked, together with an undivided share in the landed property to an extent of 6.76 % (six point seven, six percent) equivalent to 982.36 square feet together with all rights and appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface thereon, constructed on the property bearing Corporation No. 17/1, Millers Road, Jayamahal, Bangalore-560 046, New ward no 63 (old Ward No. 92) of BBMP and bounded as follows: **East by:** Private Property bearing No.17, Millers Road; **West by:** United Theological College and A.C.Jiaraz Bhoys's Building; **North by:** Winsor Court Apartments, and; **South by:** Millers Road.

Sd/- Mr. P. Usman, Advocate, Usman Law Chambers, No.46, Sadath Center, 2nd Floor, Nandidurga Road Bengaluru-560046.
Mob: 9740085683

HEALTH TIP: Pairing iron-rich foods with vitamin C-rich foods like oranges and lemons helps improve iron absorption

Add 2-5 drops of eucalyptus oil in the water when you are doing steam inhalation to ease a sore throat

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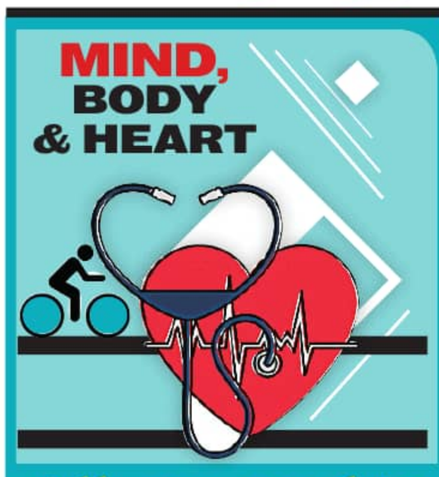


All you need to know about...

Home remedy ingredients

1. Garlic
More than just an aromatic, garlic can help ward off colds and boost immunity. Crushing or chopping raw garlic releases allicin, a sulfur compound with powerful antibacterial and antiviral properties. The allicin is what helps stimulate immune cells and fight off common pathogens.

2. Apple Cider Vinegar
Apple cider vinegar can work to ease acid reflux and heartburn. Taking a small amount of apple cider vinegar before a meal can help balance the stomach's pH level.
But don't forget to dilute it significantly to protect your teeth and throat.

3. Baking Soda Paste
All those bug bites and stings can easily be treated at home with a baking soda paste. Most insect bites and stings are acidic. Since baking soda is alkaline, it neutralises the acidic irritants. Applying a thick paste rapidly reduces the inflammation, itching, and stinging sensation.

4. Honey
This natural sweetener has so many amazing uses! Given its antimicrobial properties that help fight minor infections, it is great for soothing sore throats and coughs. Some cultures also use it to help heal wounds.

5. Cumin Water
Cumin water works its magic to ease bloating and aid digestion. Cumin seeds contain chemicals such as cuminaldehyde, which promote the secretion of digestive enzymes, speeding up the digestion process. Boiling a teaspoon of seeds in water creates a drink that helps relax the digestive tract, reduce gas, and relieve bloating and general indigestion after meals.

6. Turmeric
Turmeric is perfect as an anti-inflammatory because of the curcumin in it. This is excellent for easing joint pain and improving general health, especially when mixed with black pepper for increased absorption. —Femina

LIGHT BRIGHT BITES DONE RIGHT

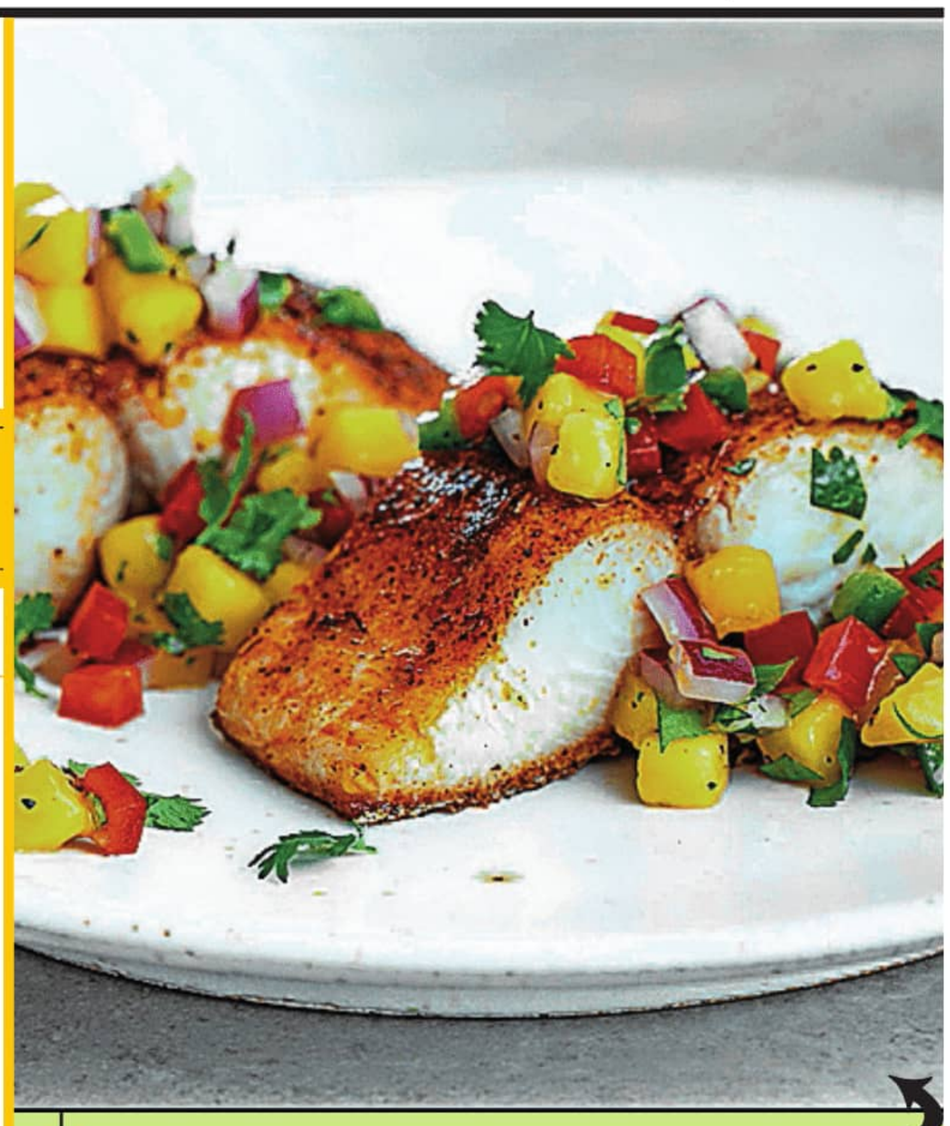
Presenting recipes that welcome the season of the king of fruits

MANGO & BURRATA SUMMER SALAD

INGREDIENTS
- Ripe Alphonso mango – 1 cup (cubed)
- Burrata cheese – 200 g
- Cherry tomatoes – ½ cup (halved)
- Rocket leaves – 1 cup
- Fresh basil leaves – 8–10 nos
- Extra virgin olive oil – 2 tbsp
- Balsamic reduction – 1 tbsp
- Honey – 1 tsp
- Lemon juice – 2 tsp
- Salt – to taste
- Oil / Butter – Not required

METHOD
- In a bowl, combine mango cubes, cherry tomatoes, and rocket leaves.
- Whisk olive oil, lemon juice, honey, and salt to prepare a light dressing.
- Toss the salad gently with the dressing to coat evenly.
- Transfer to a chilled serving plate and place burrata at the center.
- Lightly tear the burrata open for a creamy texture.
- Drizzle balsamic reduction and garnish with basil leaves.
- Serve immediately for best freshness.

Things to Take Care
- Always use chilled burrata for best texture
- Avoid over-mixing to prevent leaves from wilting
- Balance sweetness and acidity for a refreshing finish



GRILLED FISH WITH MANGO SALSA

INGREDIENTS
- **For the Fish**
- Sea bass / Rawas fillet – 2 nos (180 g each)
- Olive oil – 2 tbsp
- Garlic – 1 tbsp (finely chopped)
- Lemon juice – 2 tsp
- Paprika – 1 tsp
- Salt – to taste
- Oil / Butter – 1 tsp

For Mango Salsa
- Ripe mango – 1 cup (finely diced)
- Red onion – 2 tbsp (finely chopped)
- Red bell pepper – ¼ cup (small dice)
- Fresh coriander – 2 tbsp (chopped)
- Lime juice – 2 tsp
- Olive oil – 1 tbsp
- Salt – to taste

METHOD
- Marinate fish with olive oil, garlic, lemon juice, paprika, and salt. Rest for 15 minutes.
- Heat a grill pan on medium-high heat and lightly grease it.
- Place fish skin-side down and cook for 3–4 minutes until crisp.
- Flip and cook for another 2–3 minutes until just done.
- Mix all mango salsa ingredients in a bowl and adjust seasoning.
- Plate the fish and top with fresh mango salsa.
- Finish with a drizzle of olive oil and serve hot.

Things to Take Care
- Ensure pan is properly heated before placing fish
- Do not overcook—fish should remain moist inside
- Handle gently while flipping to avoid breaking the fillet

Recipes by Chef Rahul Desai, Executive Sous Chef at Sula Vineyards

PINEAPPLE MANGO SALAD

INGREDIENTS
- 1 cup pineapple, cubed
- 1 cup mango, cubed
- 2 tbsp coriander leaves
- 1 tsp honey
- 3 pinches of, salt
- 1 cup cucumber, cubed
- 6 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1½ tbsp chana dal, powder
- 2 pinches of, black pepper powder

METHOD
- Combine all the ingredients in a deep bowl, mix well and then allow it to rest for a while. Toss again gently.
- Serve immediately or serve it chilled.

Recipe featured in Femina

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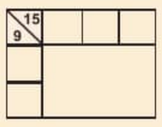
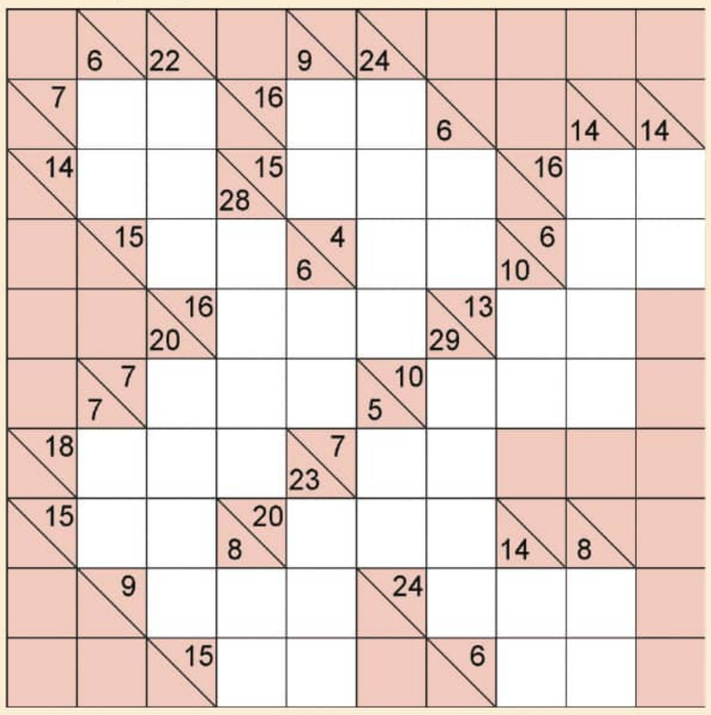
Kakuro

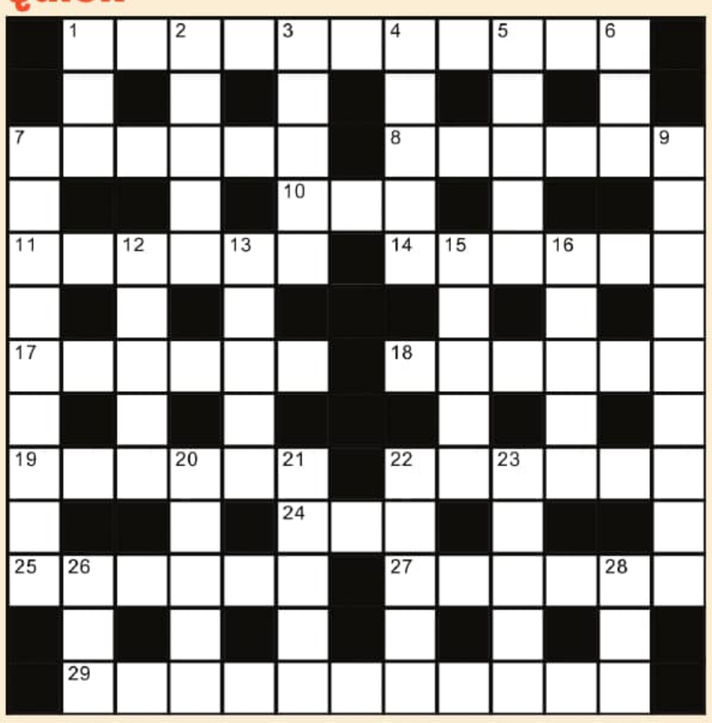
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Great disaster (11)
7 Withheld or saved (6)
8 Draft or prepare (4,2)
10 Before (3)
11 Romeo, Ranjha, et al.? (6)
14 Veteran convict? (3,3)
17 Roof over a doorway (6)
18 The heavenly twins (6)
19 Pool of rainwater (6)
22 12 constellations (6)
24 Expert or adept (3)
25 Horror or panic (6)
27 Harbhajan Singh's petname (6)
29 Highest ranking title in chess? (5,6)

DOWN

1 Policeman (3)
2 Second prime number (5)
3 Teams taking part in sports (5)
4 Wild West carnival (5)
5 Tartan (5)
6 Large Australian bird (3)
7 Area famous for its invitation card shops (9)
9 Opera by Ruggiero Leoncavallo first performed in 1892 (9)
12 Mr. Khanna of Bollywood (5)
13 Relating to the kidneys (5)
15 Give the __ __ : serve to show falsity of ? (3,2)
16 Roman 58 (5)
20 Hindu goddess of war (5)
21 Folded a page corner (5)
22 Striped equine (5)
23 Induct or design (5)
26 Unit of energy (3)
28 Sound discordantly (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS C

H OZKEN KD H UAJDQC SZQ OHC'T VCNA.JDTHCN SZF DQLAQCA SQVEN BKMA HSHF H UAJXAOTEF BQQN WKTTAC.

Linemaro

I want to be the reason you look down at your phone and smile. Then walk into a pole

Mindchow

If you shut up truth and bury it under the ground, it will but grow, and gather to itself such explosive power that the day it bursts through it will blow up everything in its way

Joke of the day

Distant relatives are the best kind, and the further the better

Loop

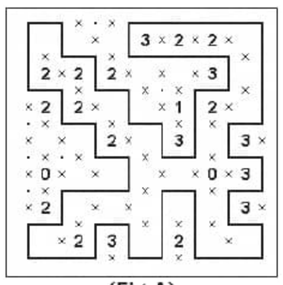
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

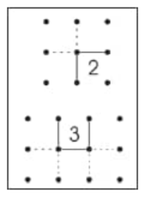
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

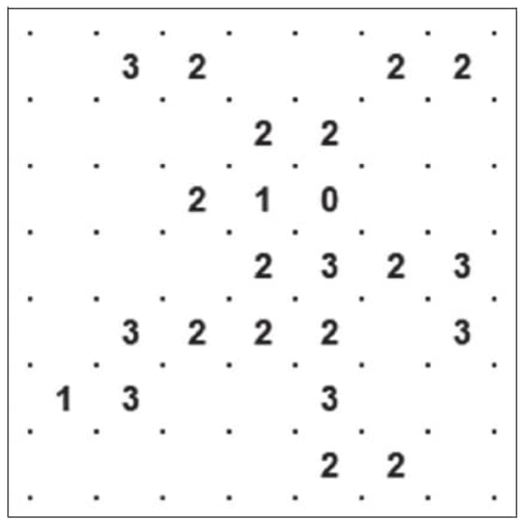
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



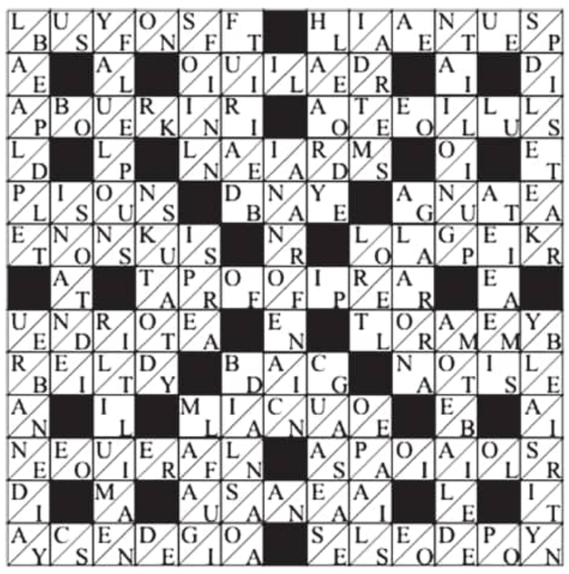
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



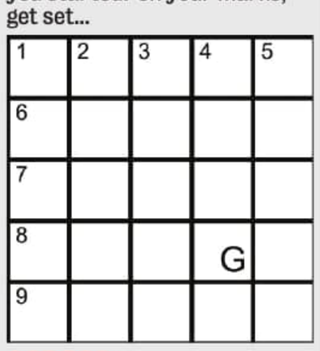
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Galea; 6 B Mary; 7 A ruin; 8 A gait; 9 Soils

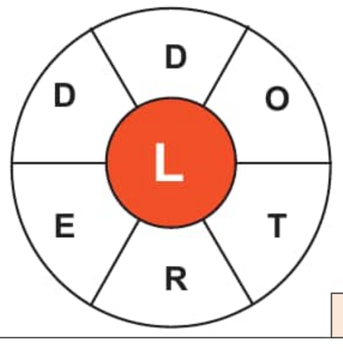
DOWN

1 Tabus; 2 Liana; 3 Glair; 4 Mi Goa; 5 Years

Mensapuzzle

Which character is needed to fill the blank segment?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1			8		9			7
3				4				6
		8	1		7	3		
	3	1				7	9	
5								1
	2	4				6	5	
		6	9		5	4		
8				7				2
2			6		1			5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

4 6 6 5

Medium = 12

3 6 8 3

Hard = 15

3 3 4 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

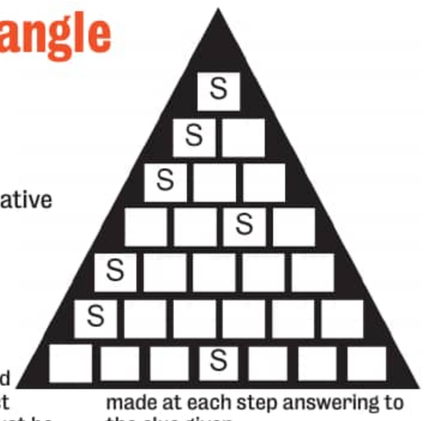
Differences: 1. Light is higher. 2. Sleeve is longer. 3. Bat is shorter. 4. Book is thinner. 5. Man's arm is moved. 6. Arm of chair is lower.

Riddler

It's Lizzie's birthday today, and she's exactly half the age of her mother, who, in two years will be three and a half times the age Lizzie was 14 years ago. How old is Lizzie?

Alpha triangle

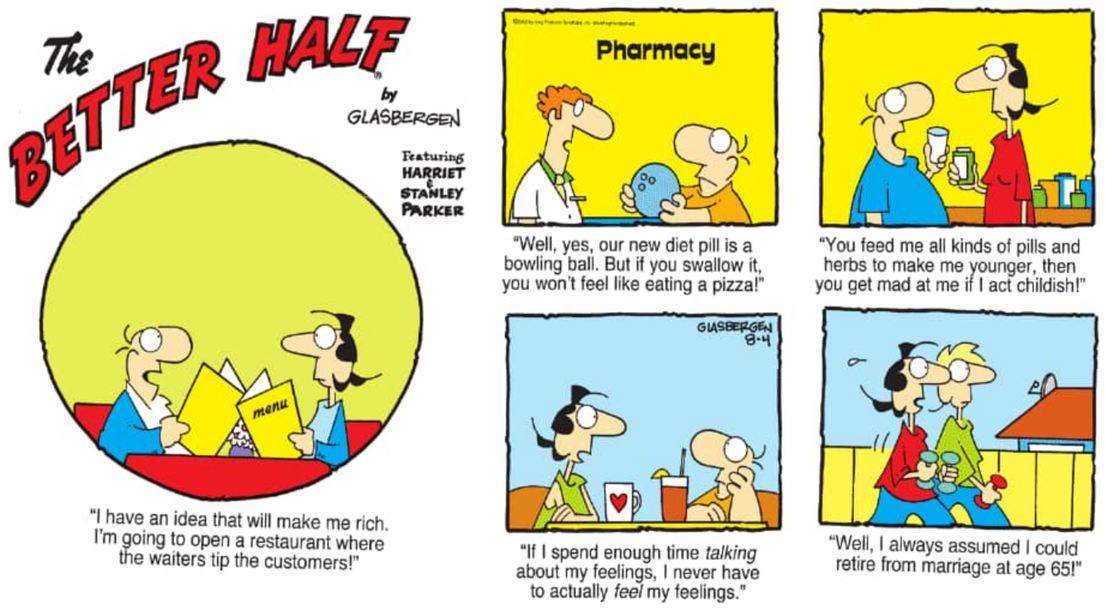
1 Curved letter
2 South East, abbr.
3 Filming site
4 Breather
5 Emporium
6 Ice-cream alternative
7 Prop up



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Celebrate your birthday knowing the coming year blends adventure, stability, and growth. Travel opportunities arise through friends, learning, or career shifts. Love feels supportive, passionate, and reassuring. Financial progress builds steadily through patience. Home life feels peaceful with comforting routines and shared laughter. Stay curious, take chances, and welcome the surprising doors opening across your path this bright new year.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Organization will help you manage today's workload, Aries. If responsibilities feel overwhelming, pause and plan your schedule carefully. Writing tasks down can reduce stress and help you complete everything efficiently.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Handle family or relationship matters carefully today, Leo. Differences of opinion may arise at home. Listen patiently and look for shared understanding rather than insisting your viewpoint is correct.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Pay extra attention to your health today, Sagittarius. Your immune system may feel sensitive, so prioritise nutritious food and rest. Cooking at home instead of eating out could support your well-being.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

You deserve rest, Taurus. Step away from routine responsibilities and take time to recharge somewhere peaceful. Reconnecting with loved ones during this break may restore balance before returning to work.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Romantic developments may brighten your day, Virgo. Someone could reveal their feelings, especially if emotions were previously unspoken. If you're already in a relationship, your partner may express deeper affection.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

You may usually hide your emotions, Capricorn, but today invites honesty. Sharing your feelings with someone trustworthy can ease pressure and bring emotional comfort during stressful moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

If you're struggling with an important choice today, Gemini, remain calm. Weigh each option logically and consider whether both paths might work together. Ultimately, the decision rests in your hands.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Someone new may capture your attention today, Libra, perhaps even sparking brief romantic curiosity. Enjoy the moment but avoid over analsying it; the attraction may simply be a passing feeling.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Romance may bring delightful surprises today, Aquarius. If you've been thinking about expressing your feelings, this could be the right moment. Your honesty may be warmly received.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Emotional ups and downs may appear today, Cancer. Avoid unnecessary confrontations and focus on your responsibilities. Staying busy and grounded will help you manage sensitive feelings and maintain stability.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Your multitasking abilities will be valuable today, Scorpio. Numerous responsibilities may demand attention, but your organisational skills help you handle them efficiently. Trust your focus and manage tasks one step at a time.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

You may feel mentally overworked lately, Pisces. A change of environment could refresh your outlook. Plan a trip or outing with friends and return feeling energized and inspired.

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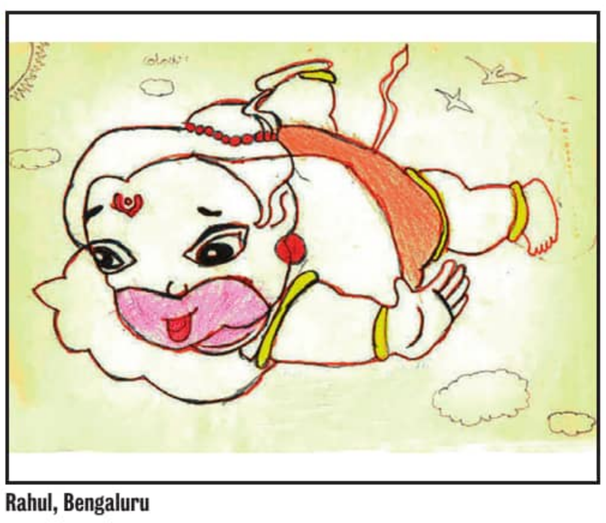
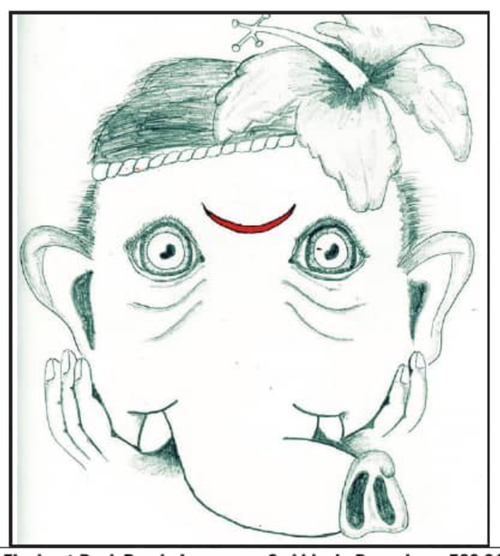
KIDZONE



Rahul, Bengaluru



Jason, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(9)! / (3! x 3³ x 5!) =
(9 x 8 x 7 x 6) /(3! x 3³)=
(3,024) / (6 x 27) =
3,024 / 162 = 18.6

RIDDLER

34 years.

STRIKE OUT

B	U	Y	O	F	■	H	I	A	T	U	S	■	■	■
E	■	A	■	O	I	L	E	D	■	I	■	■	■	■
D	■	P	■	L	E	A	D	S	■	I	■	■	■	■
A	B	U	K	I	R	■	A	E	O	L	U	S	■	■
L	I	O	N	■	D	A	Y	■	A	N	T	E	■	■
E	N	N	U	I	■	R	■	L	A	G	E	R	■	■
■	A	■	T	R	O	O	P	E	R	■	A	■	■	■
U	N	I	T	E	■	N	■	T	O	M	M	Y	■	■
R	E	L	■	B	I	G	■	N	O	S	E	■	■	■
A	■	L	M	A	C	A	O	■	B	■	A	■	■	■
N	E	U	R	A	L	■	S	P	O	I	L	S	■	■
I	■	M	■	U	S	N	E	A	■	L	■	T	■	■
A	C	E	D	I	A	■	S	L	E	E	P	Y	■	■

FAST FIVE

A	L	G	A	E
B	A	R	M	Y
U	N	A	I	R
T	A	I	G	A
S	I	L	O	S

QUOTE UNCODE

A child is a person who can't understand why someone would give away a perfectly good kitten.

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

15. In each circle, the lower left value equals the sum of the numerical values of the letters and the top right value equals the difference in the letter values.

BULL'S EYE

dole, doled, dolt, lode, lord, lorded, lore, older, retold, role, toddle, TODDLER, told

SUDOKU

1	6	2	8	3	9	5	4	7
3	7	9	5	4	2	8	1	6
4	5	8	1	6	7	3	2	9
6	3	1	2	5	8	7	9	4
5	8	7	4	9	6	2	3	1
9	2	4	7	1	3	6	5	8
7	1	6	9	2	5	4	8	3
8	9	5	3	7	4	1	6	2
2	4	3	6	8	1	9	7	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE

S, SE, Set, Rest, Store, Sorbet, Bolster.

GO FIGURE

6 - 4 + 6 + 5 = 13
Easy
3 x 8 / 6 x 3 = 12
Medium
3 + 4 x 3 - 6 = 15
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Anne Hathaway's Mother Mary role inspired by Taylor Swift— Hollywood star Anne Hathaway took inspiration from Grammy winner Taylor Swift for her new movie Mother Mary, as per the film's director David Lowery

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Entertainment Industry Promotion

Showing up, consistently

Shilpa Shetty reveals how she built career spanning over 32 years

Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty made her acting debut with the superhit film 'Baazigar' which was released in 1993. Shilpa Shetty recently opened up about the hard work and dedication that shaped her long career in Bollywood. The actress shared an incident where she burned her back on the film set but still reported for work the very next day.

She emphasised that she always tried to deliver and show up, no matter the circumstances, so that producers did not face any losses.

Shilpa Shetty recalled getting burned by an HMI light during a shot. She explained in the YouTube channel Tomorrow, Today Show, "I got burned by HMI light in a shot on my back. The shot was that I had to get out of frame and there was a baby light at the back and my back touched it. When you get a burn, you don't realise it that very second, only when it starts burning, you realise it."

Despite the injury, she chose to continue working without making a fuss.

Even with the burn, Shilpa made sure she was present for the next day's shoot. She said, "I still showed up the next day. I had to wear an outfit the next day, but I couldn't wear it because I was burnt, so I wore it from the front and asked them to stitch it with threads so that I don't have to zip it."

Shilpa Shetty pointed out that filmmakers called her because they saw her dedication. She shared, "I got work because people saw the hard work. I would deliver and I would show up, whatever be the circumstances. I worked so hard in my life so that nobody else faces losses because of me." She believes this consistent approach helped her build a career spanning over 32 years. **—ETimes**

Who is the villain? Keep guessing

Peter

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Sukesh Shetty
- **ACTORS** Rajesh Dhruva, Janvi Rayala, Raviksha Shetty, Raam Nadagoud, Prathima Nayak, Raghu Pandeshwar
- **CERTIFICATION** A
- **Duration** 141 minutes

Peter is director Sukesh Shetty's second movie after Dooradarshana. Shetty's second attempt must be appreciated for his unique choice of script and use of upcoming actors. He manages to portray the protagonist without indulging in heroics. He ensures the identity of the antagonist is kept a secret till the end. There are some discrepancies like people getting away with murder, and a complete absence of police despite a battle between two gangs going on.

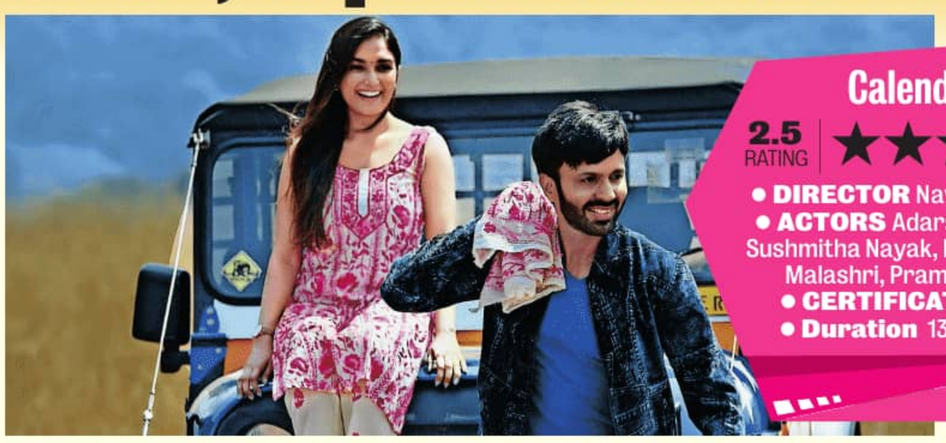
The movie begins with Peter (Rajesh Dhruva) waking up from a nightmare. Peter, who has been staying in Kasargod for a few years, decides to go back to his hometown in Madikeri taluk. He visits his ailing mother Mary (Prathima Nayak) who is suffering from acute stress disorder. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback showing how Peter played a pivotal role in establishing a team of chenda players. He meets Meera (Ravishka Shetty), a college student, and she falls in love with him. Meera asks Peter to tell her about his mother. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not Meera and Peter get married.

Rajesh Dhruva, known for acting in tele serials, debuts as a hero with this movie. He looks good in emotional and romantic scenes but is not up to the mark in action scenes. He fails to impress as a chenda player. Ravishka Shetty, as a jovial and carefree college girl, has acted well. Janvi Rayala deserves appreciation for agreeing to play a de-glam role in this movie. Prathima Nayak walks away with all honours for her sterling performance. Radhakrishna Kumble, Raghu Pandeshwar, and Ram Nadagoud provided good support.

Rithvik Muralidhar has scored lilting music. Cinematographer Guru Prasad Narnad has done a good job too.

If you like suspense thrillers, you will enjoy this movie. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Love, liquor and life



Calendar

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Naveen Shakthi
- **ACTORS** Adarsh Gunduraj, Sushmitha Nayak, Nivishka Patil, Malashri, Pramod Shetty
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 134 minutes

Calendar is Naveen Shakthi's first outing as a director. His lack of experience shows as some of the actors have failed to follow the script, especially Ramesh Indira. Ramesh Indira plays a police inspector, but is always on the screen in plain clothes. His body language and dialogues also are too casual to be that of a cop. Adarsh Gunduraj, who plays a doctor, looks like a patient throughout the film, what with the way he is downing alcohol and thrashing enemies. Perhaps, the director could not make him follow the script as Gunduraj is one of the producers for this movie. Another incongruous scene is a presser held at the Press Club of India, New Delhi where journalists ask questions in Kannada and Hindi.

The movie begins with some people drinking at a bar. The next scene is on the first floor of the bar where Dr Akash (Adarsh Gunduraj) is having beer and later shaking a leg for the song – Vapaskode. At this juncture, the director introduces Malavika (Nivishka Patil). She meets Dr Akash but her husband does not like it. A tussle takes place between Malavika and her husband and later the latter is found dead. Yuvaraj Ontimani (Ramesh Indira), a police officer, takes up the investigation.

The director then introduces a flashback to narrate how Dr Akash meets Nakshatra (Sushmitha Nayak) and how they decide to get married. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to them and the impact of premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD) on their lives.

Gunduraj has tried to show his acting skills but he has to go a long way to establish himself as an actor. Sushmitha Nayak and Nivishka Patil look glamorous. Senior actress Malashri, who plays the health minister, has nothing to do except appear in a scene. Pramod Shetty, as a politician, is convincing.

Sunad Gowtham's music is catchy. Choreographer Bhajrangi Mohan and Cinematographer Ramesh Koira have worked well.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Hacked!

Chitrangda Singh revealed that her X (Twitter) handle has been hacked. The actress further shared that she is currently in the process of retrieving her account and urged everyone not to respond to messages or activity from her account until further notice.

Chitrangda Singh took to her Instagram Story to inform everyone of the hack saying, "Hi everyone, my account on Twitter has been hacked. We are in the process of retrieving the same. Please ignore any recent activity or messages from it until it's resolved. Thank you."

Chitrangda Singh is all set for the release of her next, 'Maatrubhumi', starring Salman Khan in the lead. Talking about the film, Chitrangda had told IANS, "My father was in the Indian Army, and growing up, listening to his stories was normal for me, but playing the role of an army wife is different. When I met army wives, I understood my mother's silences, her pride mixed with worry."

She added, "These women carry that same blend of strength and fear every day. I tried to bring that complexity to the role, not just the smile or the courage, but the part where you learn to hold it together even when your heart is breaking." **—ETimes**